

Minutes of Caspar Community Board of Directors Meeting

November 2, 2007

I. Call to Order/Present: (Call to Order at 9:15 a.m.)

Board Members: David Alden, Paul Reiber, Ray Duff, and Judy Tarbell, Paul Schulman, Susan Juhl

Absent: Susan Keller

Staff: Dalen Anderson.

Guests: Bette Goldfarb; Elizabeth Alden

Quorum Declared: Yes X No

II. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the Board meeting on Oct 19, 2007 having been timely distributed, were approved as corrected.

III. Reports

A. Correspondence

None.

B. Treasurer:

None.

C. Manager's Report

There has been no response in re the dinner scheduled for 11/10. The RSVP deadline is 11/7. We should do a phone campaign and PSAs on radio. Will set up a table at Post Office in Mendocino on Monday 11/5.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Safety Council

Julie Rodgers, director of the Fire Safety Council for Mendocino, would like time at the next community meeting. Also we need to post articles on the web site about this and the gorse situation. Ray Duff is developing an evacuation map. We need to determine how to post signs along the way, especially through JSForest. The County Fire Safe Council can handle all funds raised to support local fire safe councils within the umbrella of their 501c organization. They will keep separate accounts so that the local councils have access to any funds they raise.

B. Web Site

A meeting will be held on Thurs. at 10:00 am at the CCC to discuss the web site problems and solutions. We need to review all minutes and make certain we have all the minutes for all the meetings as approved and corrected. Ray Duff has distributed a draft review to Judy Tarbell and David Alden for follow up.

C. The Caspar Cattle property

Paul Reiber had suggested in his agenda that the meeting be substantially devoted to discussing the role of the Board in the various issues that have arisen surrounding the Land Purchase proposals, including the idea of a Community Land Trust and a Community Services District.

It was suggested that the charter of the Board historically included 1) operating the CCC, 2) keeping communication open within the community, 3) representing the community as to the outside world at least with respect to communicating to the outside the community plan which had been developed, and 4) addressing broad issues of universal community concern, such as fire safety and emergency preparedness.

Considerable discussion ensued as to whether the Board is and/or should be overly focused on managing the CCC and attempting to channel communication within the community or whether the Board should take more of a leadership role in pursuing issues which it believes would benefit the community, such as the formation of a CSD or CLT.

It was noted by several people that we should not risk the credibility and fund raising success which the Board has as a neutral, community consensus driven organization by taking on positions on potentially controversial issues.

It was observed by others that many in the community looked to the Board as being in a position to undertake more of a leadership role. It was also pointed out that the Charter of the organization arguably speaks more broadly than managing a CCC and fostering consensus in describing the purpose of the CC.

It was discussed whether the priorities of the Board should change, such that those priorities should at least include dealing with LAFCO/CSD and CLT issues on a priority level equal to fundraising for the new kitchen.

As an example, USDA is believed to have a grant program where as much as \$50,000 could be raised. What would we want that money for? It could go directly into the kitchen fund, or it could be used to establish a CSD or a CLT. The first is an accepted community consensus goal. The latter two ideas have been sponsored by several people in the community as a priority for the whole community, since this group believes that controlling the land and water is Caspar's only way of controlling its future. Many on the Board do not believe a consensus has been arrived at on this question, and that many in the community would not wish the Board to divert its attention and funds from the CCC and kitchen to these other issues.

It was suggested that if people in the community felt strongly about a CSD or CLT, it was their option and responsibility to form a community group and raise money and get that project done, and that the Board should focus only on truly consensus driven issues, such as the CCC and kitchen.

In counterpoint, it was suggested that that very sort of activity was within the purview and responsibility of the Caspar Board. The Board might examine the suggestion of a CSD or CLT and reject it as not being in the best interests of the Caspar Community, but that it could not just duck responsibility. If –as has been suggested–these ideas are critical issues which affect the entire Caspar Community, then the Board has a responsibility because of its charter, to examine these issues and either decide they are good for the community (in which case the Board should act) or not (in which case the Board could move on to other issues.)

One question is how the Board is to determine what consensus within the community is? Community meetings have been sparsely attended, and often are dominated by one group or another. It is difficult to get a representative gathering of significant size.

More discussion on these issues will be held.

D. Community Meeting

The next community meeting will be on 11/11. The agenda will include the fire safe council, LAFCO issues and the Tarbell CLT presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.